

Montana Career Resource Network

CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2004

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RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

If you have tried to use the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) since the winter school break, you have probably noticed the home page has a different look and feel to it. This is the 2003-2004 Internet version of MCIS we have all been waiting for! The MCIS home page operates much the same as the old one with some minor changes in program content.

First, under the Education and Training Section of MCIS, there is a new program called Graduate School Sort. This new program allows the user to find a specific institution with the graduate or doctorate program of their choice. The user defines characteristics that are important in five different selection criteria; major, degree, location, setting and type. These criteria are then used in selecting a school with a specific graduate or doctoral degree. After selecting some or all the selection criteria, one can view a list of schools at any time by clicking on "Get My Results."

Second, Career preparation information has been reorganized so that users will be able to find the Helpful High School Courses (HHSC) topic added to the beginning of each preparation section. This section has been designed to help students choose the courses in high school to best assist them in preparing for their future occupation or post-secondary education.

Finally, there have been program changes incorporated into the operation of the personal portfolio. With the new portfolio, the user is allowed to authorize others to view the contents of their portfolio as well as create an online resume. At the homepage for the user's portfolio there are now three headings: my personal information; my CIS favorites; and my education and work history. **My personal information** lets the user edit their name, address, e-mail and other contact information, as well as giving them the option to let others view the information in their portfolio. **My CIS favorites** lets the user view the items they have saved in their portfolio. **My education and work history** enables the user to enter or edit education and work history information in order to build the perfect online resume. Users can change resume styles, select different sections to include, and select whether references are included or not. The staff here at the Montana Career Resource Network are very proud to bring you the new 2003-2004 Internet version of MCIS. If you have and questions or comments, please contact us using our website at <http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us> or calling us toll free at 1-800-354-8830.



MCIS Training Dates

Hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and is ready to get started with the second half of the school year. Starting in February 2004, there will be MCIS Internet trainings once a month in the computer lab at the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF). For those of you that have small groups that could travel to Helena, to attend one of these trainings, please contact us via email at fstephenson@state.mt.us More training dates will be added if needed.

If the training times are not convenient but you would still like your group to come train in Helena, then give us a call and we'll try to secure the computer lab for whatever dates and times you have in mind. At this point, the computer lab has been reserved for the following Internet MCIS training dates in 2004:

Friday, February 20	1 – 4:30 PM
Wednesday, March 10	1 – 4:30 PM
Friday, April 23	1 – 4:30 PM

In addition to the schedule above there is a training scheduled at the Billings Career Center Library on Feb. 2, 2004 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. It will be open to all Billings high school educators. If you are not from the Billings school district and would like to attend, just call Vivian Peterson at 406-655-3085 to be sure that there are spaces left in the class. The class will be able to accommodate 30 people, but if the response for training is strong, it may be possible to schedule a second session from 6-8 p.m or earlier that morning.

2003-2004 Career Guides Order Yours Now!

It has been our experience here at the Montana Career Resource Network (MCRN) that most schools throughout Montana tend to order the majority of their career planning publications after the semester break. This means that from January through April, we receive most of our request for the Career Guides and other career education materials we produce. So, if you are one of these schools, please get your orders in early. You'll want to have all your materials ready before your classes start.

The Career Guide is an excellent supplement to the Montana Career Information System (MCIS). The Career Guide contains tips on career planning, obtaining educational

guidance, information on union apprenticeship programs, and other career preparation opportunities. This year the Career Guide has a new look and feel with new print type and of course new wage and occupational information, but still maintains the same format.



For copies of the Career Guide:

Call: 1-800-354-8830

E-mail: fstephenson@state.mt.us

FAX: 406-444-7499

Web: <http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us>

Click on: "Order Now" or

Mail Request to:

Montana Career Information System

PO Box 1728

Helena, MT 59624-1728

Bundles of 40 — \$10

Box of 160 — \$40



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Play the Real Game To Win at Real Life

The Real Game Series

Starting this year, Montana Career Resource Network (MCRN) will be promoting the sale of The Real Game Series (TRGS) to schools across Montana. TRGS is a collection of six levels of experiential, engaging, and highly effective programs that help students see the relevance of their courses of study to their future career plans. All sets are fully reproducible so that once the master set is purchased it can be reproduced for the class repeatedly. All programs in the series are designed to help students master career development competencies in the National Career Development Guidelines. In fact, the objectives for each session in TRGS are linked to the competencies and performance indicators at the appropriate developmental level in the Guidelines. MCRN plans to crosswalk to core competencies demonstrated in the activities of Real Game to the competencies standard that Montana schools are being held accountable for demonstrating in their curriculum.

TRGS has different program levels, which are designed for grade 3 through postsecondary, and each level focuses on a specific theme involved in career planning. Through the promotion of TRGS, MCRN is able to expand its career development audience to now include elementary schools. All proceeds generated from TRGS sales will only be used for replenishing inventory or the revising of materials.

MCRN will also be handing out promotional literature regarding TRGS at each of its trainings and presentations during the year. In the future, the MCRN website will contain an informational page on TRGS promoting the sale and use of TRGS to Montana schools, as well as containing price lists and online order forms. For more information on TRGS please call 1-800-354-8830 or send us an e-mail from the website: <http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us>.

A Letter to Career Professionals



Shaunda Hildebrand, the Montana Career Resource Network Director, has sent out a letter to several of the career development professionals in the state. This letter deals with career education and its long-term effects on our communities and their economic futures. Attached to this letter are articles attesting to the importance of career information and development. “Educational, Social, & Economic Value of Informed Career Decisions” and “Summary of Key Findings.” Both of these articles agree that informed and considered career decisions lead to higher incomes, fewer bouts and shorter durations of

unemployment. Well researched career decisions lead to better matches of person and work resulting in less turnover, better health for the employee and the employee’s family, and fewer instances of work-related stress, depression, and violence, which lead to savings in training, social welfare, criminal justice, and healthcare costs. We hope that you find this information valuable and helpful as you deal with career issues this coming year. If you would like a hard-copy of this information, please call us at 1-800-354-8830 or contact us through our website.

Who Needs Math & Science?

The Montana Career Resource Network is very proud to announce the completion of its long awaited publication, “Who Needs Math & Science?” This publication is comprised of interviews from people throughout Montana and nationally that have careers that require math and science but whose backgrounds, education levels, race, gender and age vary greatly. Still, some common threads weave through their stories, tying them all together. Most all the people that we interviewed agreed that even if they weren’t using math and science directly in their selected career, the studying of math and science enhanced their mental ability to think logically and solve problems.



The publication, “Who Needs Math & Science” is maintained as a pdf file at the Montana Career Resource Network website <http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us/> . Once you reach the page, go to the MCRN Navigation bar and left click on “Who Needs Math & Science” which is located under Publications. If you have problems or are unable to download this publication, please call us at 1-800-354-8830 or contact us through our website and we will send you a hardcopy of the publication.



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